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## U.S. Envoy Ortiz Denies He Ever Served as Spy

Reuter

Ambassador-designate to Peru Frank Ortiz has categorically denied allegations that he had served as a U.S. intelligence agent during a previous tour of duty in Lima in 1969.

At his confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday, the 30-year Foreign Service veteran said reports carried by some Peruvian newspapers were false.

"I wish to state formally on the record that any allegation that professionally I am anything other than a career Foreign Service officer is categorically untrue. The committee from its own records is able to verify this fact," he said.

He said the allegation was first made when he headed the U.S. Embassy's political section in 1969. "No responsible person believed those charges and in fact they were officially retracted within one week and appropriate apologies were made."

Committee chairman Charles Percy (R-Ill.) said Ortiz was one of President Reagan's "most distinguished Foreign Service career appointments."

Also appearing was Thomas Aranda, an Arizona lawyer named ambassador to Uruguay. Both were expected to be confirmed routinely by the committee and the full Senate.